CLUSTER: SECONDARY TRANSITION

OBJECTIVE: All youth with disabilities, beginning at fourteen and younger, when appropriate, receive individualized, coordinated transition services, designed within an outcome-oriented process, which promotes movement from school to post-school activities.

RELATED MISSOURI PERFORMANCE GOAL(s):

The percentage of students with disabilities graduating with a regular diploma will increase.

The percentage of students with disabilities that drop out of school will decrease.

The percentage of students with disabilities participating in vocational preparation programs is consistent with the percentage of participation in the general population of students.

The percentage of students with disabilities employed or enrolled in continuing education six months **post vocational training** will increase or be maintained at a high level.

The percentage of students with disabilities employed or enrolled in continuing education six months **post graduation** will increase or be maintained at a high level.

Notes:

- Components and indicators marked with an "*" are included in Cluster Lite.
- Related professional development is listed under the indicators. For descriptions of the professional development, please refer to the Comprehensive System of Professional Development section.
- General notes about the data analyzed in this report can be found in the Data Explanations section.

COMPONENT BT.1*: After exiting school, are youth with disabilities prepared for employment, post-secondary education and/or independent living?

Overview Answer: In general, the statewide graduation rate has been increasing, the dropout rate has been decreasing and just under 90 percent of the students with disabilities who graduated are employed or in post-secondary education. There has been an increase in the number of students with disabilities being served by the Centers for Independent Living. All this suggests that, in general, youth with disabilities are prepared for life after high school, however, a significant amount of work remains to be done in this area.

Strengths: Five of eight of Missouri's performance goals for children with disabilities deal with secondary transition. Goals address increasing the graduation rate and decreasing the dropout rate as well as making vocational programs available to students with disabilities in order to better prepare them for life after high school. Secondary transition is an important focus and there have been advances in transition services in Missouri. Among the efforts which led to these advances are a Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) developed individualized education program (IEP) model, the A+ program, the Vocational Rehabilitation Cooperative (VR COOP) program, Missouri Transition Alliance Partnership (MOTAP) project, Vocational Rehabilitation/Special Education joint professional development training, improved monitoring processes, establishment of standards and increased awareness of the transition process. Related Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) activities are listed for each indicator. From these lists, it is evident that professional development is readily available for educators in Missouri.

The junior and senior high school students with disabilities who participated in the eight focus groups reported that they felt they had been very well prepared for life beyond school. Those who wanted to go on to post-secondary education had support in determining the two-year or four-year colleges that would meet their needs and they said they felt prepared to move on. Those who wanted to work had a variety of support within their schools: hands-on opportunities to experience the type of work they thought they were interested in were available, contacts with potential employers were available, and in some cases, students were able to have mentors as they began to work a limited number of hours with potential employers. The students were enthusiastic about the high school teachers and counselors who had provided encouragement and support for them. They considered the teachers and counselors friends and planned to report back to them on their progress. In one case, a boy was just eager to graduate so he could work full time and earn more money. He just wanted to get his classes out of the way but he realized a diploma was important so he was staying in school to graduate. The students were very enthusiastic and were quite willing to share their challenges and their successes as well as their plans for the future.

Areas of Concern: While statewide data shows improvement in graduation and dropout rates, many individual districts are not showing improvement. There is concern about the lack of data on Independent Living services available and how students are accessing those services. There is limited data available on referrals to Vocational Rehabilitation, and the number of VR COOP participants that graduated and are employed. The Division of Special Education and Vocational Rehabilitation are in the process of coordinating databases so that this data can be collected.

Other Comments: In the future, professional development related to secondary transition will be available on-line to provide greater access to the information. Decisions regarding the need for various types of professional development will be data driven. The Division needs to determine the impact of professional development at the local level.

Improvement strategies recommended by the committee include:

- Secondary and post-secondary institutions should work together to determine the best transition services for students with disabilities who enter two and/or four-year colleges and universities
- Strategies should be employed to educate students with disabilities to advocate for transition services in the post-school setting (e.g., work, post-secondary education, etc.)
- Increased cross-training between outside agencies and school district staff in the area of transition
- Districts should investigate ways to involve more businesses in the transition process by building better business partnerships to assure that schools, parents, students and employers are aware of employment opportunities and the potential of students with disabilities.

Note: Data for the indicators compares students with disabilities to all students rather than to non-disabled students. Data is collected in such a way that calculating rates for non-disabled students would be prone to error.

SUMMARIZE THE CURRENT STATUS AND CONCLUSIONS FOR THIS QUESTION

BT.1.1*: Is the rate of youth with disabilities graduating with a regular diploma comparable to that of youth without disabilities?

Data Sources:

Dropout and graduation data

Related CSPD:

- Access to the General Education Curriculum
- Accommodation and Modification for Classroom Instruction and Assessment (Manual)
- Eduequity
- Issues in Education Technical Assistance Bulletin
- Missouri Math Initiative
- Missouri Transition Alliance Project (MOTAP)
- Network for High Schools with Results
- Positive Behavioral Supports
- Priority Schools
- Secondary Transition

Data Summary:

Graduation Rate Summary

	Students wi	All Students	
Year	Number of Graduates	Graduation Rate	Graduation Rate
2000-2001	4,605	59.5%	81.4%
1999-2000	4,451	53.4%	80.3%
1998-1999	3,966	53.1%	78.5%

*Excludes Department of Corrections (DOC), Division of Youth Services (DYS), Missouri School for the Blind (MSB), Missouri School for the Deaf (MSD) and State Schools for the Severely Handicapped (SSSH)

Notes: "All Student" data from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) web site. Graduation rate formula: Graduates / (9-12 Cohort Dropouts + Graduates).

"Students with Disabilities" data from Screen 12 of Core Data as of June 5, 2002. Graduation rate formula: Graduates with a diploma / (Graduates with a diploma + Dropouts).

Committee Conclusions:

The graduation rates of students with disabilities are significantly lower than that of all students for each of the reported years, however the gap decreased for the 2000-2001 school year. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE's) current system of collecting data makes it difficult to compare children with disabilities with non-disabled children. Data for all students includes students with disabilities in the totals.

LIST THE QUESTIONS THE COMMITTEE STUDIED AND THE DATA SOURCES REVIEWED	SUMMARIZE THE CURRENT STATUS AND CONCLUSIONS FOR THIS QUESTION
 BT.1.2: Is the rate of youth with disabilities graduating with a regular diploma increasing annually? Data Sources: Dropout and graduation data Monitoring data Related CSPD: Access to the General Education Curriculum Accommodation and Modification for Classroom Instruction and Assessment (Manual) Eduequity Issues in Education Technical Assistance Bulletin Missouri Math Initiative Missouri Transition Alliance Project (MOTAP) Network for High Schools with Results Positive Behavioral Supports Priority Schools Secondary Transition 	Data Summary: Graduation Data – See BT.1.1 Monitoring Data FY2002 Monitoring Standard Secondary Transition-3 – The percentage of students with disabilities graduating with a regular diploma will increase: 19 of 87, 21.84 percent of agencies noncompliant Committee Conclusions: The statewide graduation rate of students with disabilities has increased annually for the last three years, however over 20 percent of districts monitored for this standard in FY2002 were found to have not met the standard.

SUMMARIZE THE CURRENT STATUS AND CONCLUSIONS FOR THIS QUESTION

BT.1.3*: Is the dropout rate for youth with disabilities comparable to that for youth without disabilities?

Data Sources:

- · Dropout and graduation data
- Monitoring data

Related CSPD:

- Access to the General Education Curriculum
- Accommodation and Modification for Classroom Instruction and Assessment (Manual)
- Issues in Education Technical Assistance Bulletin
- Missouri Math Initiative
- Missouri Transition Alliance Project (MOTAP)
- Network for High Schools with Results
- Positive Behavioral Supports
- Priority Schools
- Secondary Transition

Data Summary:

Dropout Rate Summary

	Students with	All Students	
Year	Number of Dropouts	Dropout Rate	Dropout Rate
2000-2001	3,138	7.6%	4.5%
1999-2000	3,880	9.6%	4.3%
1998-1999	3,504	9.1%	4.7%

^{*} Excludes Department of Corrections (DOC), Division of Youth Services (DYS), Missouri School for the Blind (MSB), Missouri School for the Deaf (MSD) and State Schools for the Severely Handicapped (SSSH)

Notes: "All Student" data from Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) web site. Dropout Rate formula: 9-12 Dropouts / 9-12 Average Enrollment.

"Students with Disabilities" data from Screen 12 of Core Data as of 6/5/02. Dropout Rate formula: Dropouts / Child Count (14-22 years). "Dropouts" for students with disabilities include students who received a certificate; reached maximum age; moved, and are not known to be continuing; and dropped out.

Monitoring Data

FY2002 Monitoring Standard **Dropouts-1** – Dropout rates for children with disabilities decrease and are no higher than those of children without disabilities: 35 of 89, 39.33 percent of agencies noncompliant

Committee Conclusions:

The dropout rate of youth with disabilities is significantly higher that of all students for each of the last three years, however the gap decreased significantly in the 2000-2001 school year. DESE's current system of collecting data makes it difficult to compare children with disabilities with non-disabled children. Data for all students includes students with disabilities.

LIST THE QUESTIONS THE COMMITTEE STUDIED AND THE DATA SOURCES REVIEWED	SUMMARIZE THE CURRENT STATUS AND CONCLUSIONS FOR THIS QUESTION
BT.1.4: Is the dropout rate of youth with disabilities decreasing annually?	Data Summary: See BT.1.3
 Data Sources: Dropout and graduation data Monitoring data Related CSPD: Access to the General Education Curriculum Accommodation and Modification for Classroom Instruction and Assessment (Manual) Issues in Education Technical Assistance Bulletin Missouri Math Initiative Missouri Transition Alliance Project (MOTAP) Network for High Schools with Results Positive Behavioral Supports Priority Schools Secondary Transition 	Committee Conclusions: The dropout rate of students with disabilities decreased from 9.1 percent in the 1998-1999 school year to 7.6 percent in the 2000-2001 school year. While there was an increase in the middle year, the data shows an overall decrease in the dropout rates for students with disabilities. While statewide rates are decreasing, monitoring data indicates that nearly forty percent of districts have dropout rates that are not decreasing.

SUMMARIZE THE CURRENT STATUS AND CONCLUSIONS FOR THIS QUESTION

BT.1.5*: Is the percentage of youth with disabilities participating in post-school activities (e.g., employment, education, etc.) comparable to that of non-disabled students?

Data Sources:

• Graduate follow-up data

Related CSPD:

- Access to the General Education Curriculum
- Missouri Transition Alliance Project (MOTAP)
- Network for High Schools with Results
- Positive Behavioral Supports
- Secondary Transition

Data Summary:

Follow-up on Previous Years' Graduates (Six-month Follow-up)

	1999 G	1999 Graduates		2000 Graduates		2001 Graduates	
	All	Disabled	All	Disabled	All	Disabled	
2-Year College	22.7%	18.2%	23.1%	20.6%	24.7%	23.6%	
4-Year College	39.6%	8.5%	40.0%	12.0%	40.0%	12.6%	
Employed *	24.4%	51.7%	22.7%	46.2%	21.5%	41.7%	
Military	3.3%	3.7%	3.7%	3.2%	3.7%	2.9%	
Non-college	3.9%	6.1%	4.2%	7.1%	4.1%	6.9%	
Other	6.0%	11.8%	6.4%	10.9%	6.0%	12.4%	
Total Employed or Continuing Education	94.0%	88.2%	93.6%	89.1%	94.0%	87.6%	

Note: Percents use the total follow-up reported, not the total number of gradates, as the denominator.

Committee Conclusions:

The percentage of all graduates who are employed or continuing education has been about 94 percent for the past three years. The percentage for graduates with disabilities is approximately 6 percent lower. A higher percentage of students with disabilities are employed whereas a larger percentage of all students are continuing their education. A concern with this data is that follow-up information is not being reported for all graduates with disabilities, however reporting has been increasing. Future follow-up data collections will include a category titled "Unable to Locate" which will enable school districts to account for all of their graduates.

^{*} Includes Sheltered Workshops

SUMMARIZE THE CURRENT STATUS AND CONCLUSIONS FOR THIS QUESTION

BT.1.6: Does the percentage of youth with disabilities participating in post-school activities (e.g., employment, education, etc.) increase annually?

Data Sources:

- Graduate follow-up data
- · Post-vocational training follow-up data
- Monitoring data

Related CSPD:

- Access to the General Education Curriculum
- Missouri Transition Alliance Project (MOTAP)
- Secondary Transition

Data Summary:

Graduate follow-up data - see BT.1.5

Post-Vocational Training Follow-up for Students with Disabilities

	1999 Graduates Follow-Up		2000 Gradu Follow-U	
	#	%	#	%
Employed Related to Vocational Training	657	38.7%	716	36.6%
Employed Not Related to Vocational				
Training	415	24.4%	443	22.7%
Continuing Education Related to Vocational				
Training	294	17.3%	415	21.2%
Continuing Education Not Related to				
Vocational Training	135	7.9%	139	7.1%
Military Related to Vocational Training	30	1.8%	26	1.3%
Military Not Related to Vocational Training	17	1.0%	22	1.1%
Not Employed to Vocational Training	84	4.9%	101	5.2%
Not Available for Placement	31	1.8%	48	2.5%
Status Unknown	36	2.1%	45	2.3%
Total	1,699	100.0%	1,955	100.0%
Percent Employed or Continuing Education		91.1%		90.1%

Monitoring Data

FY2002 Monitoring Standard **Secondary Transition-1** – The district identifies and makes available a variety of appropriate community work opportunities for children with disabilities: 1 of 88, 1.14 percent of agencies noncompliant

FY2002 Monitoring Standard **Secondary Transition-2** – The percentage of students with disabilities employed or enrolled in continuing education six months post graduation will increase or be maintained at a high level: 20 of 69, 28.99 percent of agencies noncompliant

FY2002 Monitoring Standard **Secondary Transition-12** – The percentage of students with disabilities employed or enrolled in continuing educations six months post vocational training will increase or be maintained at a high level: not monitored in FY02

LIST THE QUESTIONS THE COMMITTEE STUDIED AND THE DATA SOURCES REVIEWED	SUMMARIZ	ZE THE	CURRENT STA	ATUS AND CON	CLUSIONS FOR	R THIS QUESTION	ON
BT.1.6: Concluded	Committee Conclusions: In the three years for which data is available the percentage of all graduates with disabilities who are employed or are continuing education has remained constant at about 88 percent. Likewise, about 90 percent of graduates who participated in vocational programs are employed or are continuing education. While the percentages are not generally increasing, they are being maintained close to 90 percent. Monitoring data indicates that districts are making community work opportunities available for youth with disabilities.						
BT.1.7: Do available linkages to transition service providers outside the SEA increase for youth with disabilities? Data Sources: • Monitoring data Related CSPD: • Missouri Transition Alliance Project (MOTAP) • Secondary Transition	FY2002 Monitoring Standar when appropriate: not mon The Department of Element to determine if an agency has been identified, agency did not attend the monitoring data indicates the at the IEP meeting by indivitheir first follow-up. No other	999 000 001 ord Seco nitored in tary and as been DESE neeting,	# Districts monitored on this standard 81 94 96 ndary Transition FY02 d Secondary Edu identified as an reviews docume DESE reviews to 15 percent of dom outside ager	# Districts out of compliance (Initial) 12 10 12 in-9 – The district agency that may antation that the agency that may be not of the control	# Districts out of compliance Follow-up1 1 0 Incomplete et involves other eviews the indivity provide or pay agency was invitor the district obtains ally out of compliant of the district of the district of the district option option of the district option o	# Districts out of compliance Follow-up2 0 agencies in trans dualized educati for particular ser ed to the IEP me ined the agency'	sition planning, on program (IEP) rvices. If an eting. If the s input. riate attendance

SUMMARIZE THE CURRENT STATUS AND CONCLUSIONS FOR THIS QUESTION

BT.1.8*: Do children with disabilities, beginning at age fourteen or younger, if appropriate, have individualized education programs (IEPs) that include a statement of transition service needs that focuses on the student's course of study?

Data Sources:

- Monitoring data
- Focus group data

Related CSPD:

- Leadership Series Compliance
- Missouri Transition Alliance Project (MOTAP)
- Network for High Schools with Results
- Secondary Transition

Data Summary:

Monitoring Data

FY2002 Monitoring Standard **Secondary Transition-5** – Children with disabilities, beginning at age fourteen, have IEPs that focus on a course of study related to transition objectives: 21 of 92, 22.83 percent of agencies noncompliant

Monitoring Indicator 101835 – A statement of needed transition services on IEP beginning at age fourteen.

	# Districts	# Districts out	# Districts out	# Districts out
	# Districts monitored on	of	of	of
		compliance	compliance	compliance
	this standard	(Initial)	Follow-up1	Follow-up2
FY2000	94	28	2	Incomplete
FY2001	96	33	Incomplete	

Focus Group Summary

The students who participated in the focus groups reported that transition service needs had been included in their IEP discussions beginning at age fourteen. The students reported that the options available to them and the requirements for each of the options had been discussed with them. The juniors and seniors felt they were well prepared for their post secondary choices and they credited their resource teachers with the preparation.

Committee Conclusions:

DESE did not monitor on this standard during FY99 because school districts were required to incorporate the new regulations under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Reauthorization of 1997 beginning in July 1998. Any IEPs reviewed during FY 99 would have been for IEPs developed the previous year before the new regulation took effect. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) determined that they would give school districts an additional year to apply the new regulations to any IEPs developed. Monitoring in FY00 and FY01 found 30 to 35 percent of districts out of compliance. Although there were a significant number of districts found to not be in compliance during the initial review, that number dropped considerably during follow-up review. This indicates that districts took the necessary corrective actions to become in compliance as it pertains to this standard.

SUMMARIZE THE CURRENT STATUS AND CONCLUSIONS FOR THIS QUESTION

BT.1.9: Do available linkages to independent living providers outside the State Education Agency (SEA) increase for youth with disabilities?

Data Sources:

- Independent Living Services student count obtained from the State Independent Living Centers (SILC)
- Monitoring data

Related CSPD:

 Missouri Transition Alliance Project (MOTAP)

Data Summary:

Number of Students Served by Independent Living Centers

Age Group	FY 00	FY01	% Change
0 to 6	48	132	175.0%
6 to 17	240	291	21.3%
18 to 22	274	401	46.4%
Total	562	824	46.6%

Monitoring Data

FY 2002 Monitoring **Indicator B 106900** – IEP includes a statement of the interagency responsibilities or needed linkages related to transition services (age sixteen+): 5 of 77, 6.49 percent of agencies noncompliant

FY 2002 Monitoring Standard **Secondary Transition-7** – Children with disabilities, beginning at age sixteen, have individualized education programs (IEPs) that coordinate instruction (including related services), community and employment experiences, adult living objectives, and linkages with other service providers or agencies as determined appropriate to meet the post secondary goals of the student: 15 of 88, 17.05 percent of agencies noncompliant

Committee Conclusions:

Data indicate that linkages do exist and that the number of students served by Centers for Independent Living is increasing. Additional analysis of the FY02 monitoring standard is needed to determine the reasons for the noncompliance. More data is needed to better address this indicator.

COMPONENT BT.2*: Are youth with disabilities involved in appropriate transition planning?

Overview Answer: Students are involved in transition planning through the individualized education program (IEP) process. At all of the focus group locations, both the students and the parents of students fourteen or older reported that the students and the parents were involved in transition planning. None of the students or parents in the focus groups had any complaints about transition planning.

Strengths: There is a focus on self-advocacy and self-determination for students with disabilities and increased training in the area of transition for systemic change. Missouri provides training to teachers and other providers regarding self-advocacy. The support of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) developed IEP model helps school districts show the transition services they are providing and there is increased documentation of transition services. Expanding the methods of delivery for trainings has allowed the State Education Agency (SEA) to reach more individuals. Efforts through the Missouri Transition Alliance Partnership (MOTAP) grant include the development of curricula designed to meet the needs of youth with disabilities as they transition from secondary to post-secondary outcomes. Focus group data show that students and parents are involved in the transition experience.

Areas of Concern: Even though information is provided in all areas of the state, school districts in rural areas do not always have the resources or a system in place for them to implement the services they would like to provide.

Other Comments: The committee recommends that the Division emphasize the importance of effective transition planning regardless of district size and/or location as well as consistency in the way that transition planning is carried out in all districts. Focusing on professional development regarding differentiating instruction for classroom teachers will provide students with additional resources for determining post-secondary options.

A Transition Symposium will be held October 23-25th of 2002 and will focus on providing opportunities to build local partnerships within each region of the state to further improve transition planning and to increase the post-school outcomes for youth with disabilities. Participants will also receive best strategies and information to assist them in their responsibility to provide effective transition services/planning for youth with disabilities. Participants will include Special Education personnel, Work Experience Coordinators, Vocational Rehabilitation District Supervisors and Counselors, Vocational Resource Educators, Centers for Independent Living staff and Community Vocational Rehabilitation/Supported Employment providers. It is estimated that three hundred participants will attend.

SUMMARIZE THE CURRENT STATUS AND CONCLUSIONS FOR THIS QUESTION

BT.2.1: Do youth with disabilities, beginning at age fourteen or younger, if appropriate, participate in transition planning?

Data Sources:

- Monitoring data
- Focus group data

Related CSPD:

- Leadership Series Compliance
- Secondary Transition

Data summary:

Monitoring Data

Monitoring Indicator 101850 - Student attended Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting or documentation of how team obtained student's input

	# Districts monitored on this standard	# Districts out of compliance (Initial)	# Districts out of compliance Follow-up1	# Districts out of compliance Follow-up2
FY1999	81	5	1	0
FY2000	94	14	0	
FY2001	96	21	Incomplete	

FY2002 Monitoring Standard **Secondary Transition-5** – Children with disabilities, beginning at age fourteen, have IEPs that focus on a course of study related to transition objectives: 21 of 92, 22.83 percent of agencies noncompliant

FY2002 Monitoring Standard **Secondary Transition-6** – Children age fourteen+ participate in meetings related to transition planning or activities: 15 of 89, 16.85 percent of agencies noncompliant

FY2002 Monitoring Standard **Secondary Transition-8** – The child's interests and preferences are identified and considered when addressing transition activities: 15 of 89, 16.85 percent of agencies noncompliant

FY2002 Monitoring **Indicator B 104520** – If purpose includes transition, students 14 years and up are invited: 13 of 89, 14.61 percent noncompliant

Focus Group Summary

The juniors and seniors in the focus groups reported that they had participated in transition planning in their IEP meetings. The students were very aware of all the aspects of services related to transition.

Committee Conclusions:

Monitoring data suggests that most districts are in compliance with participation in transition planning, if not at the initial review, then by the first follow-up. Focus group data suggests that students do participate in transition planning.

LIST THE QUESTIONS THE COMMITTEE STUDIED AND THE DATA SOURCES REVIEWED	SUMMARIZE THE CURRENT STATUS AND CONCLUSIONS FOR THIS QUESTION
BT.2.2: Does the percentage of youth with disabilities exercising their rights and responsibilities, as appropriate, regarding special education at the age of majority increase?	Data Summary: Monitoring Data FY2002 Monitoring Indicator B 106600 – Child informed of the transfer of rights by the seventeenth birthday: 13 of 72, 18.06 percent of agencies noncompliant
Data Sources:Monitoring dataFocus group data	Focus Group Summary Students over the age of 18 did indicate that they make their own choices, participate in IEP meetings and sign their own documents.
Related CSPD: • Leadership Series – Compliance • Secondary Transition	Committee Conclusions: The committee defined "exercising their rights" as it relates to eighteen-year-old youth with disabilities as knowing about the rights that would transfer to them at age eighteen, receiving any training and/or participating in activities related to self-advocacy and/or self-determination and active involvement in IEP planning. Data that could be used to measure this is not available. Available monitoring data suggests that youth are often not informed of the transfer of rights by the seventeenth birthday, although the problem is more likely to be an omission of documentation than true noncompliance.